

Las Noticias de Español

2 de Octubre, 2009

“Hola Amiga!”

Whether it is from a child running across the field, or from a child peeking out of the window seeing me pass by, or from a fellow colleague, hearing this phrase several times throughout the day brings a huge smile to my face. Spanish at SRV has begun with an enthusiastic start! From singing songs, chanting the question words, to labeling objects around the classroom SRV students are absorbing new Spanish vocabulary every week. Each class from 5 day preschool to the Oldest Group has learned the same “Buenos Dias” and “Adios” songs. It is extraordinary to listen to their beautiful voices sing in Spanish and we will hopefully be learning more songs each month.

Each class has a unique feel to it of course, but the similarities of each are remarkable. In every class there are children who are struggling to take a risk, children who are so excited to try saying a new word that they get tongue-twisted and children who have a more “natural ear” for language. No matter what the case, our goals for Spanish in each class are the same: Listen well, learn to laugh at yourself, accept mistakes (yours and others’), and always try your best.

A glimpse into each group:

The **Oldest Group** in addition to singing, have been using dictionary skills with Spanish/English dictionaries to look up words and label their classroom. They are learning to use new vocabulary in proper context and most importantly, learning to use these words with confidence.

Middle Circle is having a blast singing and moving around the room. They are learning to listen to command words for where to go, what objects to go near, and when to talk or just listen. They have also been fascinated with the similarities between words in both languages.

Primary Circle have been learning lots of vocabulary for different feelings. They have enjoyed games of charades to help recall new words and have also been moving around the room to learn vocabulary for things like the door (la puerta), the bathroom (el bano), and the windows (las ventanas).

Kindergarten has a strong advantage this year, as I am with them full time Monday through Wednesday. In Kindergarten there is a Spanish helper of the day in addition to (as the children sometimes put it) “the *real* helper of the day.” At every opportunity kindergarteners are hearing and practicing Spanish.

Five Day Preschoolers have been learning some parts of their bodies by playing Spanish Simon Says. They also have been turning and asking each other “Como estas?” and learning how to correctly respond.

It is so exciting to be teaching Spanish this year. I am already so thrilled at how quickly the children are absorbing Spanish, but moreover, at their level of enthusiasm. We are going to have an excellent year! (Vamos a tener un año muy muy excelente!)

In partnership,
Barbara